

# KICKSHAWS AUG 2014

## ~ LOST CLERIHEWS—BOOK REVIEW

*THE LOST CLERIHEWS OF PAUL INGRAM*, © 2014 by Paul Ingram, Illustrations © 2014 by Julia Anderson-Miller, Foreword © 2014 Elizabeth McCracken, published by Ice Cube Press LLC, 205 N. Front Street, North Liberty, Iowa 52317. Email [steve@icecubepress.com](mailto:steve@icecubepress.com).

Paul Ingram is a poet who has mastered the fine art of clerihewing. The clerihew is a funny form, and Paul is a funny man, and theirs is a marriage made in funny heaven. When I read the book aloud to my girlfriend Mary Jo Dane, she and I were roaring like laughing hyenas baying in the moonlight. She said, "Paul Ingram is to clerihews what John Ciardi is to limericks."

In case you don't know what a clerihew is, by the time you read a few of them, you'll see the form and how it works. In brief, a clerihew is a four-line poem with an AABB rhyme scheme. The lines are somewhat short, two or three beats, with an irregular meter. The poem begins with a well-known person's name in the first line. The next three lines make fun of the subject. The humor doesn't have to be based on truth, reality, or other things that might otherwise slow the comic effect. Clerihews are allowed to bend the real truth for the sake of the higher truth of comedy.

The clerihew was invented around 1890 by Edmund Clerihew Bentley (1875-1956). This is the only poetic form christened after its creator's middle name. Paul joins the ranks of a few other illustrious poets who have published books of clerihews. G.K. Chesterton, a good friend of Bentley's, wrote his own clerihews and illustrated Bentley's. W.H. Auden, a poetic polymath, also wrote clerihews. Paul's is the first book of clerihews published since the death of Bentley.

Paul and I have been friends since the early 1970s. He is the most quick-witted, funniest guy I know. He could've been a stand-up comic, but instead he became one of the most brilliant, knowledgeable book-buyers in the world, having worked for Prairie Lights Bookstore for decades. He's so clever, and he uses his cleverness so cleverly!

Alice B. Toklas  
Went smokeless  
A little hash  
Under her moustache.

At times, clerihews combine two real characters that go together like water and cigar smoke. Put two of the most famous psychologists together and what do you get? Let's see what Paul has to say:

Carl Gustav Jung  
Was impressively hung,  
Which sorely annoyed  
The good Dr. Freud.

Sometimes Paul combines real and made-up characters. Here's a familiar movie character outsmarting a famous multimillionaire:

Forest Gump  
Told Donald Trump,  
"You know I like you.  
We have the same IQ."

It's such a happy occasion for Iowa City to see that Paul Ingram has found his comic/poetic voice in one of the most fascinating literary forms ever invented. And yet his clerihews were scattered around his house over the years, lost in places where clerihews get lost, and then found and put together in this delightful book. Like limericks, his clerihews can be off-color, but hey this is the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Greenleaf Whittier  
Thought nothing was shittier,  
Than being stuck in the snow  
With Henry Thoreau.

In the late 1970s, I taught poetry workshops to students in grade schools, junior highs, and high schools around Iowa. One of Paul's earliest clerihews stuck with me. It was a parody of another author's clerihew. I used the original and the parody whenever I discussed the clerihew in class or at literary parties. The listeners loved both poems. Here is the original, followed by Paul's parody.

Andy Jackson  
Was half Anglo-Saxon  
And so full of beans  
That he took New Orleans.

Michael Jackson  
Looked Anglo-Saxon  
Due to some nasty  
Rhinoplasty.

Paul's clerihews can be quite up-to-date, as shown in this clerihew of a currently rising superstar:

Miley Cyrus  
Contracted a Virus,  
That got her twerking,  
Even when she was working.

In addition to these knee-slapping clerihews, the reader will be delighted to see the eye-poppopping drawings that accompany each clerihew. The illustrator, Julia Anderson-Miller, captures the humor in the writing and amplifies it with her surrealistic cartoons. I especially enjoyed the drawing of Dubya Bush, Wadsworth Longfellow, and Forrest Gump, among others. Julia's drawings are great fun and open up the visual dimension to make this book a double play!

## **~ MONSTERS UNCHAINED—BOOK REVIEW**

*MONSTERS UNCHAINED! OVER 1,000 DROP-DEAD FUNNY JOKES, RIDDLES, AND POEMS ABOUT SCARY, SLIMY, SLITHERY, SLOBBERY, SPOOKY CREATURES FOR KIDS AND GROAN UPS*, © 2014 by Richard Lederer, published by Marion Street Press, 4207 SE Woodstock Blvd # 168, Portland, Oregon 97206-6267. Orders and review copies: (800) 888-4741.

Rich Lederer has come up with the ideal Halloween gift, a collection of jokes, riddles, poems, and funniness that will scare the Dickens out of Halloweeners (or, to be truthful, make them laugh fearlessly).

The introduction to the book brings up the basic question behind the loveable horrors of Halloween: "Why are we so attracted to monsters?" And here is Rich's answer:

"We are somehow drawn to their ugliness. Monsters are ghastly, grotesque, gruesome, hair-raising, hideous, horrifying, and downright yucky creatures. They are so ugly that their own shadows run away from them. They are so ugly that when they look in a mirror, their reflection looks back and screams. And they are so ugly that when they appear in *Star Wars* movies, they don't wear costumes.... We humans enjoy the wonderful variety of monsters. The morgue the merrier!"

The book contains over 1,000 jokes and riddles and 60 poems. There are 18 monsters that "lurch through these pages in alphabetical order." The cast of creepy creatures includes The Abominable Snowman, Bats, The Boogeyman, Cyclops, Dracula, Dragons, Frankenstein's Monster, Ghosts, Ghouls, Godzilla, The Invisible Man, King King, The Loch Ness Monster, The Mummy, Skeletons, Werewolves, Witches, and Zombies.

The excitement starts with a monstrous parody of Clement Clark Moore's "The Night Before Christmas." Old Clement would probably roll over in his snowy grave if he saw it. Here's the beginning:

'Twas Halloween night, and all through the house,  
All the creatures were stirring and eating a mouse.

The monsters had gathered to plan and prepare  
For all trick-and-treaters they wanted to scare.

Each creature stepped forth and performed energetically  
Their Halloween act and did so alphabetically:

The Abominable Snowman, known as a Yeti,  
Celebrated the night by tossing confetti.

Whoops! I mustn't quote any more of this wonderful take-off, or all the monsters might just take-off for me! There are many more monsters in this parody. The ending is very scary. Here's a spooky clue: What do Zombies do to Santa's reindeer? Then what do they do to Santa? You'll have to get your own copy of the book. My ghoulish copy is covered with sweat from reading it.

The book has a "Sicktionary" at the end. It contains words that might not be familiar to some of the readers—*doppelganger*, *flotilla*, *hemoglobin*, etc. Word Ways readers would be familiar with the words, but young spooks might need the definitions to fully understand the jokes.

Let's conclude this review with a tasty selection to tantalize you, brave reader, into acquiring your very own copy. Here is a limerick and several riddles.

We go ape over King Kong. He's grand!  
Biggest monarch in all of the land!  
You might think he's scary,  
But he's tall, dark, and hairy,  
And has girls in the palm of his hand!

How did Frankenstein eat his lunch?  
He bolted it down.

Why did King Kong chase after a werewolf?  
He felt like catching some fast food.

Why did the tiny ghost join the junior high school football squad?  
Because he heard that they could use a little team spirit.

What did the math teacher ask the vampire to do?  
Count, Dracula.

For the next set of riddles, you provide the answers and see how close you come to those in the book. Stumped? See Answers & Solutions.

On what day of the week do zombies cry out?

On what day of the week do zombies eat people?

On what day of the week do zombies scare people?

On which day of the week do zombies drink people's bodily fluids?

On which day of the week do zombies cook people?

### **~ A SAD SAGA**

Rich has been following the sad saga of Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling and Adam Silver, the NBA commissioner who lowered the boom on him. Rich suggests that these two adversaries should make up and go into business together selling STERLING SILVER.

### **~ X32**

Stuart Kidd enjoyed Ray Love's license plate experience discussed in the previous Kickshaws. It reminded Stuart " of the time I was following a sporty little number with the plate X32. It didn't look to me like a Lamborghini X32 or a Mustang X32, so I thought nothing of it till I'd overtaken it and glanced at my rear-vision mirror. AHA! I thought to myself, with a somewhat logologically delighted chuckle . . . (I'll leave it our readers to take this page across to a mirror or hold one in front of their monitors if they haven't 'got it' yet!)

Stuart also liked "Bill Brandt's wonderful 'And Thens' of course have their unique origin in the sadly-non-Academy-Award-winning 2000 film, 'Dude, Where's My Car:' 'And then . . . and then . . . and then . . . NO 'AND THEN.' So I'd humbly suggest we might call them Dude-isms or Dude-ies. Sadly the hyphen is necessary to avoid the outrageous mispronunciations (perish the thought) of Dudisms or Dudies as 'duddisms' or 'duddies' [dis]respectively. His last charming example in fact brings to mind again the old 14<sup>th</sup>-century Chinese proverb: Man who run in front of car get tired; man who run behind car get exhausted.

Stuart said, "Anil's realized graffito echoes my all-time favourite: 'Your karma ran over my dogma.' BTW, did you know Colin Dexter's fictional detective, Inspector Morse, was named after Sir Jeremy Morse?" [I didn't know that. Let's inspect a Kickshaw item of his in the following spot:--DM]

### **~ TWO COLLECTIONS OF WORDS**

For Kickshaws, Jeremy Morse sent "two collections of dictionary words (lower-case, unhyphenated), each of which has one weak link which your readers may be able to repair."

1. On the analogy of the well-known type-collection of AEIOU words, here is a collection of ABCD words from Chambers and OED unabridged dictionaries.

ABCD

ABSCOND

CABD

CARBIDE

ABDC	ABDUCT	CADB	CANDLEBERRY
ACBD	ASCRIBED	CBAD	CUPBOARD
ACDB	ASCENDIBLE	CBDA	CUBOIDAL
ADBC	ROADBLOCK	CDAB	CREDITABLE
ADCB	TRADUCIBLE	CDBA	CUDBEAR
BACD	BACKED	DABC	DIABETIC
BADC	BARDIC	DACB	DANCEABLE
BCAB	BROCADE	DBAC	DEBAUCH
BCDA	HERBICIDAL	DBCA	DISBOSCATION
BDAC	BIRDWATCHER	DCAB	EDUCABLE
BDCA	BIRDCAGE	DCBA	DECUBITAL

2. And here is a collection of words showing a high degree of invariance with the months of the year and days of the week.

JAGUARS, TEXTUARY, LARCH, APRON, BAY, TUNE, DULY, AUGURY,  
SEPTENARY, OCTOPUS, REMEMBER, REMEMBER.

SUNDAE, MONKEY, OUTSTAY, YESTERDAY, THUNDER, FRIAR,  
SATURATE.

### ~ FIRST CONTACT

Anil tells how he found out about Word Ways: "Did you see the March '94 *Scientific American* Math. Recreations by Ian Stewart (p.88)? It's entitled 'The New Merology of Beastly Numbers' and discusses your 89-238 article 'Perfect Number Names in Neo-alphabets' and Lee Swallows' 90-12 article 'The New Merology'. I'm twenty years late and you probly saw it anyway, but just in case not I thought you'd like to know that you and Lee had your fifteen minutes of fame. Congrats! And speaking of Ian Stewart, I sent him my best science and maths anagrams from *up/dn*, which he didn't use in *ScAm* but he did forward me to Martin Gardner, who referred me to Ross Eckler, and that's how I first made contact with *Word Ways*."

### ~ FOUR SHORTS

Anil provides this quadruple play: "Now for the Kicks in arrears. (Get it? Hope they don't hurt too much.) The first three except for my titles and comments are unverified from newspaper quizzes. The fourth is modified from the same paper (*The West Australian*) but probably older and may have already appeared in Ks."

Can't Lose! In 19th C. Britain, the punishment for a failed suicide attempt was hanging.

Bad News for Earth Lovers: Kentucky citizens are legally required to have at least one bath a year. Whew—glad I left!

So Be Careful with Those Things! In Chico CA there is a \$500 fine for detonating a nuclear device within the city limits. Costly, eh?

Preposition Nine: A boy asked his mom, when she reads him to sleep, *not* to use a particular book about Australia. When she came to him upstairs with that very book he said, in tears, "What did you bring that book I don't want to be read to from out of about Down Under up for?"

## ~ SIX CONSONANTS

Anil notes that "Tennis star Philipp KoHLSCHReiber's name has six straight consonants. Is this a record? Or just a mouthful? CaTCHPHRase is another six so P. K. only ties the record at best. Both of these are compound words. Are there any simple words with six or more? Any words, even hyphenated, with seven or more? StreNGTHS and leNGTHS only have five. Hasn't this issue been raised before in *Word Ways*? I ask." [Yes, this question has been discussed before, but I don't know what the record answer is.—DM]

## ~ YOBBO AND PALS

According to Anil, Yobbo = yob is defined in *Macquarie Australian Dictionary* as a hooligan or lout, or a slovenly, uncultured young man. He's a lad just begging for a backwardisation. For example:

**Yob = boy** is the British etymology of yob. (Yobbo is an Australianism.)  
yob = "O" boy [or] yob = "O, no!" boy  
yob = boob boy (or an anagram: **yobbo = booby**)  
yobbo = mob boy (gang member, as in the title Yobbo and Pals)  
yobbo = SOB boy.

And the winner is:

**Yob = hoon, no? (Oh boy!)**

Hoon [*ibid.*] is ca. a synonym of yobbo, making this a definitive pal or smynonyms, like yob = boy but without the same etymology and plus an editorial comment.

## ~ READING, RHYMING AND ARITHMETIC

For Anil, things often add up in many ways. Here are lots of examples:

one + one = Eon + Eon	(The first two Eons, long + long ago.)
one + two = ten woo	(Three, courting ten, but a long way to go yet.)
one + three = other 'nee	(Quadruped's fourth knee.)
one + four = O, fun o'er!	(Happy hour is at five.)
one + five = of Ne I've	(Another march toward ten: Neon is element 10.)
one + six = Eos? nix	(Dawn is more often around six than seven.)

one + seven = nose 'ëven	(Seven, the holy number, pushes one toward heaven. At eight?)
one + eight = ooe, night!	(By nine evening is definitely gone and night has fallen.)
one + nine = none + ein	(Ein + none, actually—a 1 and a 0 make a 10.)
one + ten = not e'en	(Oddly enough, eleven is not even.)
two + one = toe won	(Already done [above] and won by a toe.)
two + two = WW toot	(Four issues per year—hooray!)
two + three = worth hee	(What's funny about five? Have you ever seen a quintuped?)
two + four = of/w. tour	(A couple join four other travellers, creating an official "tour group".)
two + five = Weft I've.	(Warped as well—at craps?)
two + six = so twix'	(twixt seven and nine)
two + seven = set woven	(Makes a set of nine—a baseball team, or the positive digits, or what.)
two + eight = to weight	(Weighing down two with a massive eight more = too weight to wait.)
two + nine = not wine	(No drinking after 10:30! or time to switch to the harder stuff?)
two + ten = tot w'en	(Say when when it reaches midnight—or the top of the 12 oz. glass.)

Anil concludes: "This could go on way past midnight, indeed for years, so I'll say no more than this early start at rhyming anagrams of all the simple sums, and not even think about more complicated arithmetics."

## ~ THE ANSWER TO LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

Anil writes: "Doug Adams gave the answer as 42 Did he perhaps say that because it's the total number of dots on a pair of dice? That at bottom it's all a play of chance, unknowable except probabilistically?"

## ~ PLANETARY MNEMONICS AND MNORE

Anil wants to know, "Is there a common mnemonic for M V E M (A) J S U N (P)? If not, lets see some—with or without the Asteroid belt and Pluto, as you prefer. Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, probably the most often confused, make their own apt mnemonic, SUN. For all eight to ten orbits (the A and P words can be omitted without loss of meaning or usefulness), I would suggest the following."

Mercury, Vaulting Earthward, Makes Astronomical Jumps Skyward Unto Neptune. (Perhaps!)

[Vaulting might be replaced by Voyaging, Venturing or Varying.] "



What I personally need more, however, are mnemonics for the major moons of the other planets,

Mars: Phobos and Deimos;

Jupiter: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto;

Saturn: Titan;

Uranus: Oberon and Titania;

Neptune: Triton.

I especially have trouble remembering which planets Titan and Triton occupy.

This should help:

Titan (a giant) is larger than Triton (a mollusk) just as Saturn is larger than Neptune.

But how to tell that neither is a satellite of Uranus? How about ruling Oberon-Uranus-Titania OUT as a

mnemonic. It puts Oberon first, being nearest to Uranus.

As to the major moons of Jupiter in order of proximity to the planet I suggest:

JIEGC = Jupiter Is Ever Growing Cyclones.

A better one would use all words of the same lengths as the moons', like Is and Cyclones. Eg,

Jupiter Is Energy-Gleaning Cauldron. Surely this can be improved on.

And for the relatively tiny satellites of Mars, in order of proximity:

MPD = More Puny Diameters,

[or] Minor Planetary Debris,

[or] Mars Phobia Demons, which may be less memorable (think scary little green men) but

approximates the names of the two moons and gives them the right number of letters."

## **~ EVEN MORE MNEMONICS**

In response to Anil's mnemonics, here are three of mine, each followed by Anil's response to mine.

### **Solar system**

M V E M J S U N P

"Many visible eternal moons join sunny universe's nine planets."

ANIL: "Like!"

### **Days of the week**

S M T W T F S

"So many times watches tick for seconds."

ANIL: "Yes, 604,800 times a week! But you...

Shouldn't Memorise The Week's Thousand Forgettable Seconds!

[for]

Seven Makes The Week's Totally Facile Sum.

### Months of the year

J F M A M J J A S O N D

"John filled Mary's antique melon jug just as Susy opened Nick's drink."

ANIL: "Justly Filed Mnemonics Assuage Memory's Jaggedly Jiggled  
Annual Sequential Order, Normalising Disorder.

[and]

Just Five Months Are Minus Jours (Judged Against Seven Of Normal  
Days).

[Pardon my French. Jour = day. And Normal of course means 31.] "

### Half-Day Mnemonic

Anil added the following temporal mnemonics:

HOURS OF THE HALF-DAY MNEMONIC

Ours Twelve Tick Forever, For Sixty Seconds Eternally Notch Time Every  
Transit.

[Transit means a round trip of both the second hand *and* of the minute  
hand, garbling or overlapping the two.]

### Compass directions

N S E W

"Nimble sneakers elevate wisdom."

Anil expanded on the four basic compass directions:

NORTHerlies surpass every wind!

No, SOUTHerlies easily win!

Not so! EASTerlies wallop!

No squalls equal WESTerlies! [Not true, actually. The West Wind is  
considered the mildest.]

or, more eruditely, yea mythologically:

NEGAGFOK's supreme! (Eskimo wind) [Negagfok is the Inuit name for  
the North Wind. (Wikipedia)]

No, SIROCCO excels wind-wise! [Or replace "No" with

NOTUS, another name for the South Wind.]

Not so, EURUS wins! [Eurus is the East

Wind in Greek mythology.]

No! SEPHYR's excellence wins! [Sephyr is a cheeky

phonetic spelling of Zephyr, the GreekWest Wind]

### ~ UNITED STATES OF ACRONYMS

Inspired by Anil's mnemonics, I decided to see what I could do in making  
acronyms for the state names. There already is a humorous acronym for IOWA:

"Idiots out walking about." I looked it up on the web in an acronym dictionary. There are also serious acronyms listed, such as that for IDAHO: "Idaho Development And Housing Organization." My acronyms take the humorous path, since they're modeled after the Iowa acronym, which has "idiots" doing the action. I wrote 24 new acronyms, each of which has a different derogatory word in the plural for the characters doing the action—buffoons, lunks, goofballs, etc.—and uses the present participle (-ing) of a verb. The challenge for you is to write acronyms for the remaining states. Each should have a different derogatory name in it. You can use proper names and/or other state names. Don't worry if it doesn't make sense. Most of mine don't.

Alabama = Avid, livid, animated buffoons attacking modern art

Alaska = Abominable lunks always stupidly kicking animals

Arkansas = Asses robbing kings as Nebraska's sanctimonious androids sleep

Colorado = Creeps on luxurious Oregon roads achieving dapper opulence

Delaware = Dolts eagerly lifting a wall after returning eggs

Florida = Fools laughing on roads in dusty areas

Georgia = Goofballs eagerly operating radios greased in Arkansas.

Hawaii = Halfwits adding words as if inspired

Idaho = Imbeciles dancing around hairy opossums

Illinois = Illustrious lamebrains lost in numerous octopus inked seas

Iowa = Idiots out walking about

Kansas = Kooks and nerds sitting and standing

Louisiana = Lunatics on untreated ice sliding in arctic nights aimlessly

Maine = Mysterious, aloof inbreeders needing ears

Massachusetts = Mindless and senseless stooges acting human under sweet  
elm trees that sing

Missouri = Many ignoramuses standing sadly over ubiquitous random  
Iowans

Nebraska = Nuts electing Bush returning as stupid kid again

New Jersey = Nice, evenly whacked jugheads eating roughage since everyone yodels

New York = Nervously enigmatic weirdoes yakking on rat kibble

Ohio = Oddballs hiding in overcoats

Oregon = Odious ragamuffins emulating Georgians obviously necking

Texas = Twerps eating xylophones and singing

Utah = Ugly thugs at home

Virginia = Vast, illogical roughnecks grabbing ironic noses in atmosphere

Washington = Wretches anticipating some heinous icons negotiating gory theories of naugahyde

### **~ TRUTHFUL STATE GEMATRIA**

Anil tells the truth about the state of gematria: "Comparing the alphanumeric value (AV) of the fifty US states' postal abbreviations with their order of admission to the Union revealed three hits:

Illinois was the 21st state and the AV of IL is 21 (9+12).

Oregon was 33rd and OR = 33 (15+18).

Nevada was 36th and NV = 36 (14+22).

No others came within three of a hit except WI (30th, 32) but seven came within four: GA (4th, 8), IN (19th, 23), MO (24th, 28), MI (26th, 22), KS (34th, 30), WY (44th, 48) and UT (45th, 41). The worst fits were the last two states admitted: AK (49th, 12) and HI (50th, 17). Using full state name gematria gave no close hits.

### **~ USA QUIZ**

Here's a tricky quiz from Anil:

1. Which was the first State to join the union?
2. How many States finally joined the USA?
3. Twelve States risk being appropriated by other States. That is, their names or half names can be spelled with letters from other States' names without reusing any letters. Six of them are obvious, with letter order intact: Virginia < West Virginia, Kansas < Arkansas, and both way grabs by the Norths and Souths of Carolina and Dakota (=4). Name the other six. Their letters are not in order.

4. Which State can be absorbed by any American State? With a car left over.  
(See Answers & Solutions)

### ~ EARTH LOVERS

A bulletin from Anil: "Kentucky citizens are legally required to have at least one bath a year. Whew—glad I left! (Queen Elizabeth I would have complied. She bathed every month whether she needed it or not, more than most of her subjects.)"

### ~ READING, RHYMING AND ARITHMETIC

This study by Anil combines the three elements, listed above.

one + one = Eon + Eon (The first TWO Eons, long + long ago.)  
one + two = ten woo (THREE, courting ten, but a long way to go yet.)  
one + three = other 'nee (QUADruped's fourth knee.)  
one + four = O, fun o'er! (Happy hour is at FIVE.)  
one + five = of Ne I've (SIX in another march toward ten: Neon is element 10.)  
one + six = Eos? nix (No, dawn is more often around six than SEVEN.)  
one + seven = nose 'even (Seven, the holy number, pushes one toward 'eaven.  
At EIGHT?)  
one + eight = ooe, night! (By NINE o'clock evening is definitely gone and night  
has fallen.)  
one + nine = none + ein (Ein + none, actually—a 1 and a 0 make a TEN.)  
one + ten = not e'en (Oddly enough, ELEVEN is not even.)

two + one = toe won (Already done [above] and won THREE by a toe.)  
two + two = WW toot (FOUR issues per year—hooray!)  
two + three = worth hee (What's funny about FIVE? Have you ever seen a  
quintuped?)  
two + four = of/w. tour (Two join four other travellers, creating an official SEX  
"tour group".)  
two + five = Weft I've. (Warped as well—at craps [SEVEN]?)  
two + six = so twix' (EIGHT is twixt seven and nine)  
two + seven = set woven (Makes a set of NINE—a baseball team, the positive  
digits, or what.)  
two + eight = to weight (Weigh down two with eight more = TEN, too weight to  
wait.)  
two + nine = not wine (No drinking after ELEVEN! or time to switch to the harder  
stuff?)  
two + ten = tot w'en (Say "when" it reaches midnight—or top of the TWELVE oz.  
glass.)

### ~ TRUTHFUL DOUBLE-RHYME ARITHMETIC ANAGRAM

Anil came up with this piece of arithmetical logology.

nine + one = ein + none (a 1 and a 0 make a 10)

### **~ IOWA WRITER'S WORKSHOP—COURSE LIST FOR NEXT YEAR**

This isn't a real course list. It was a spoof written by the Actualist Poets of Iowa City about 40 years ago.

8:282	Rhyme Workshop
8:283	Rhythm Workshop
8:285	Onomatopoeia: When to use it (Seminar)
8:286	Beginning Linebreaks
8:286b	Advanced Linebreaks
8:287	Iambs, Anapests, and Dactyls: Comparative Study
8:289	Caesuras: Now and Then (Historical Study)
8:290	The Literary Origins of Variable Feet Traced to Their Roots
8:291	Poetic Anatomy
8:292	The Economic Implications of Free Verse
8:293	The Psychology of the Caesura and the Collective Unconscious
8:294	Stability Theory in Fluid Rhyme Schemes
8:295	Applied Imagery
8:296	Literary Genes and Chromosomes
8:297	Introduction to Doggerel
8:298	Intermediate Doggerel
8:300	Natural Hazards of Poetry & Doggerel
8:301b	Field Trips with Pencils
8:301c	How to Correct Incorrections
8:301d	How to Write Right
8:301e	The Poet in Action
8:301g	Poetaster Laboratory
8:301h	The Alphabet and Its Purpose in Reality
8:312	Successful and Unsuccessful Metaphors
8:313	The Disappearing End Rhyme

--Darrell Gray, John Sjoberg, Dave Morice  
near Xmas '71

### **~ MAY TAKE**

Bill Brandt sent this feedback to a Kickshaws item in the previous issue: "I liked Ray Love's article about using the word 'take' in the May edition of Word Ways. It didn't take much to take hold and get me to take heart and take aim at drafting a brief response to the request for examples of using 'take' without reference to a physical object." Here is Bill's take on "take."

## **Partaking in Taking**

We don't want to take advantage of you or want you to think we take you for granted. Consequently we would like you to take charge and take the floor to tell us what your uptake is on all this. Just take it easy and take your time to take a look at it. Let us know if you were taken in or if you take exception or take issue with it. Then give us your take on it. But take it from me if you don't take kindly to it we won't take any guff about it. You may think I have been taken for a ride, and I may have to take it on the chin for this, but after taking notice and taking account of everything, I think it takes the cake, and you can take that to the bank.

## **~ DID YOU**

Bill notes that "Homonyms are words that are spelled the same, and pronounced the same, but have different meanings. For these words the meanings depend on how they are used in a sentence (usually as a noun or a verb). When paired together some of them do not make any sense, for example you cannot 'train a train' or 'fire a fire.' However some of them can be used to create sentences that do seem to make sense, for example, 'you can plant a plant, and 'you can coach the coach.' Perhaps they could be used in a game called 'Did You.' The following are some 'Did You' examples."

Did you baby the baby?  
Did you bank at the bank?  
Did you brush the brush?  
Did you buckle the buckle?  
Did you check the check?  
Did you cheat the cheat?  
Did you coach the coach?  
Did you copy the copy?  
Did you cover the cover?  
Did you drink the drink?  
Did you dust the dust?  
Did you guard the guard?  
Did you help the help?  
Did you hide the hide?  
Did you fax the fax?  
Did you lock the lock?  
Did you mail the mail?  
Did you march forth on March fourth?  
Did you mix the mix?  
Did you pack the pack?  
Did you page the page?  
Did you patch the patch?  
Did you pick the pick?

Did you plan the plan?  
Did you plant the plant?  
Did you print the print?  
Did you question the question?  
Did you ride on the ride?  
Did you roast the roast?  
Did you sign the sign?  
Did you slide on the slide?  
Did you smell the smell?  
Did you spot the spot?  
Did you tie the tie?  
Did you view the view?  
Did you walk on the walk?  
Did you wash the wash?  
Did you watch the watch?  
Did you wheel the wheel?

### **~ FLYING OFF THE HANDLE**

Bill says "I am not sure if the 'flying off the handle when you are full of bologna, expression is still used these days, or if it is just something remembered by some of the old timers. Nevertheless, I thought it would be a good topic for a limerick. The rhyme of the last line is a bit of a stretch, but I am hoping my poetic license covers it." His poem is made of limerick stanzas.

#### **Flying Off the Handle**

On the front handlebars of a bike,  
Sat two flies named Clarence and Ike.  
And back on the bicycle seat,  
Sat a package wrapped careful and neat,  
With something that all flies would like.

The wind without making a sound,  
Caused the package to fall to the ground.  
When the sidewalk it hit,  
The package did split,  
And bologna lay there in a mound.

When bologna came into their view,  
The flies knew just what to do.  
Ate bologna and loving the stuff,  
They ate and had more than enough,  
Then back to the handlebars flew.

Said Ike "I'm sure liking the taste,



And food is not something to waste.”  
His wings fluttered and such,  
But his weight was too much,  
Then his death was something he faced.

This rhyme gives you something to mull,  
And I hope you won't find it too dull.  
Here's something that's true,  
When bologna fills you,  
Be sure not to fly off the handle.

### ~ ELEMENTAL TRUTHFULNESS

Anil points out that “the element symbols Al (aluminium or aluminum) and N (nitrogen) are alphanumerically truthful. The elements\* erbium (Er) and hafnium (Hf) and the element symbols Al (aluminium or aluminum) and N (nitrogen) are alphanumerically truthful.

**Al** has an alphanumeric value AV of 13 ( $A=1 + L=12$ ) and 13 is its atomic number AN.

**Erbium** has an AV (68) equal to its AN (68).

**Hafnium** has an AV (72) equal to its AN (72).

**N** has an AV (14) ca. the same as its atomic weight (AW, 14.0067) and exactly twice its AN (7).

**O** (oxygen) also has *about* the same AV (15) and AW (15 something†).

There are six other near misses§ whose AVs differ from their ANs by but one:  
**Actinium** (AV90,AN89), **berkelium** (96,97), **P** (phosphorus 16,15), **Sc** (scandium 22, 21), **Sr** (strontium 37, 38) and **V** (vanadium 22, 23).

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\* Speaking of elements, there's also **Ah**, the element of surprise.

† 15.9994 (Ha-ha! Remind you of anything? Like prices.)

§ Why do “near miss” and “near hit” mean the same? Sounds like exactly half way towards being a hit. Is there a name for such, say in *The Dictionary of Wordplay*? They're sort of the opposites of contranymy? Contra-contranymy? Pronymy? Paradoxisms? Or just ironic synonyms?

### ~ TEXTING REBUS

Anil tells about “this neologism and definition from my cousin Judy.

EXHAUSTIPATED = too tired to give a shit.

It inspired this rebus version:

EXHAUSTIPATED = 22222.222222.

Hope you're not too exhausted to give a shit and try to solve it. My answer isn't the only possibility." (See Answers & Solutions.)

## ~ OF PINTEREST

Anil tells about a new website: "Pinterest is a website my artist friend Jasmine called to my attention. It's a collection of silly pun cartoons. Below are some that are funny without the drawings. Any you've already heard?"

Paper to rock and scissors: "Why can't we all just get along?"

Why can't hedgehogs just share the hedge?

Talking house to jar of honey: Hi Honey, I'm home.

Two slices of cheese pose for the camera. Photographer: "Say people."

Breakfast in bed: a fried egg, a slice of bacon and piece of toast sitting up in bed together.

A sandwich walks into the Mayo Clinic...

Sales clerk, a bull, to customer in a china shop: "Shall I break it now or wrap it first?"

Never trust an atom. They make up everything.

Two books conversing: "You look thinner." "Thanks. I had my appendix removed."

Church Mice: two mice at another's hole, "We'd like to talk to you about cheeses."

The Hokey Pokey, Shakespearean style:

Oh proud left foot that ventures quick within  
Then soon upon a backward journey lithe.  
Anon once more the gesture then begin;  
Command sinistral pedestral to writhe.  
Commence thou then the fervid hokey-poke.  
A mad gyration, hips in wanton swirl.  
To spin! A wide release from heaven's yoke.  
Blessed dervish! Surely canst go, girl.  
The hoke, the poke—banish now thy doubt.  
Verily, I say, 'tis what it's all about.

Finally, four great pi jokes (all but the last modified somewhat, especially the first):

Octopi:  $\pi\pi\pi\pi\pi\pi\pi\pi$  (1 octo-pi = 2 octopi!)

Pi spelt backwards is pie! Try it. Hold 3.14 up to a mirror.

If a pizza *pie* has a radius of  $z$  and a thickness of  $a$ , it's volume is  $\pi \cdot z \cdot z \cdot a$ .

Wife of Pi to marriage counsellor: "He's irrational and he just goes on and on."

### ~ WHAT IS THE LEAST LOADED LETTER?

"Which letter has the mildest or least connotations?" asks Anil. "Any opines? I would reject A-G (music notes; school grades; et al.), H (heroin; hydrogen [bomb]), I (me; Roman 1), J (marijuana joint), L (Roman 50; Learner car plates), M (Roman 1000; geo-astronomical million; chemical molarity), P (piss; Provisional car plates), Q (question), R (naughty movie rating), T (tea; tee; T-shirt), U (U-turn; short for You), V (Roman 5; Victory), X (see R; x-rays; the unknown; Roman 10; x axis in analytical geometry and science), Y (axis—see X; YMCA; female crotch), Z (axis—see X; snooze), leaving who KNOWS.

Which can you further eliminate? Suggestions: K = Greek thousand (kilo-); N = the unknown number (same as X), and chemical normality; O = zero, the opponent of X in tic tac toe yet the companion of X in hugs and kisses, and the most symmetrical letter; S = seconds, shillings, singular, and sulphur. Leaving W for the Winner? Or does W's unique 3-syllable pronunciation make it stand out like dogs' balls?"

### ~ A PRACTICAL PLETHORA OF PARODIES

Here are eight parodies of famous poems. The first two stand alone, and the last six are progressions on "Mary Had a Little Lamb." I enjoy writing parodies. One drawback to doing them is that they often work better if the reader knows the original. This can be avoided by writing something that is funny enough to not require any previous knowledge.

#### So Much More Depends

(after "The Red Wheelbarrow" by William Carlos Williams)

so much more  
depends

upon the red  
chickens

glazed  
with hot sauce

beside the  
barbecue pit

### **How Do I Loathe Thee**

(after "How Do I Love Thee" (Sonnet 43) by Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

How do I loathe thee, Boss? Let's count the ways.  
I loathe thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My fist can reach, when throwing thee a right  
For the ends of smacking thee upon thy face.  
I loathe thee to the level of everyday's  
Most quiet punch, in sun or neon light.  
I loathe thee freely, as employees might.  
I loathe thee purely, as they sock to daze.  
I loathe thee with a passion put to use  
With kung fu, tai-kwon-do, karate chop.  
I loathe thee with a hate I seemed to lose  
With my lost club—I loathe thee with a bop  
Upon thy nose or chin, and if God choose,  
I shall but loathe thee better when you drop.

### **Let Us Go, Then, You and I**

(after "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," by T.S. Eliot)

Let us go, then, you and I,  
up the stairs into the sky.  
Let us climb the points of stars  
that twinkle like the lights of cars.  
Let us touch the moon, the sun,  
and every planet, like this one.  
Let us drink the Milky Way  
that pours into the glass of day.  
Let us sail the great Big Dipper  
like a cosmic Yankee Clipper.  
Let us leave the shores of space  
And cross the universe's face  
and splash through waves that lap the beach

whose flowing edge we never reach  
and feel the skin of timeless time  
where feeling disappears in rhyme.  
Let us go, then, you and I:  
Down there's the earth, up here's the sky.

### **She Dwelt among Ungodly Ways**

(after "She Dwelt among Untrodden Ways" by William Wordsworth)

She dwelt among ungodly ways  
Without a bar of Dove  
Or any other soap, and thus  
She had no one to love;

A stinkweed by a mossy stone  
Half hidden from the nose!  
—Fair as a skunk, when only one  
Is standing near a rose.

She lived unclean, and few could know  
When Lucy bathed, you see;  
But now she's in the tub, and oh,  
The difference to me!

### **MARY MADE A RHYTHMIC LAMB**

Like any traditional rhymed poem worth its salt, the "Lamb" has a strong rhythm. The first line has four beats, the second three, and so on, alternating four and three beats to the end. In the parodies below, each has a consistent rhythm throughout. "Her Lamb" has 1 beat in each of the eight lines. "Mary's Lamb" has 2 beats in each line. The progression continues to 6 beats in each line. I tried to make all of these lambs have the spirit of the original lamb immortalized in the poem by Sarah Josepha Hale.

#### **Her Lamb (1 beat per line)**

Her lamb  
Like snow  
With her  
Would go.

It broke  
A rule  
And went

To school.

**Mary's Lamb** (2 beats per line)

Mary's lamb  
Was white as snow—  
And where she went,  
The lamb would go.

To school it went!  
That broke a rule.  
The children laughed:  
"A lamb's in school!"

**Mary Had a Lamb** (3 beats per line)

Mary had a lamb,  
Its fleece was white as snow,  
And everywhere she went,  
The lamb was sure to go.

It went to school with her,  
That was against the rule,  
The children laughed and played  
To see a lamb in school.

**Mary Had a Little Lamb** (4 beats per line)

Mary had a little lamb,  
Its fleece was downy white like snow,  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
The lamb was always sure to go.

It followed her to school one day,  
That was against the district's rule.  
It made the children laugh and play  
To see a lamb like hers in school.

**Mary Had a Tiny Little Lamb** (5 beats per line)

Mary had a tiny little lamb,  
Its fleece was frosty white like driven snow,  
And everywhere its owner, Mary, went,  
The lamb was always sure that it would go.

It followed Mary to her school one day.

That was, alas, against the school board's rule.  
It made the children chuckle, laugh, and play  
To see a lamb just like that one in school.

**Mary Had a Teeny-Tiny Little Lamb** (6 beats per line)

Mary had a teeny-tiny little lamb,  
Its fleece was frosty white just like the driven snow,  
And everywhere its loving owner, Mary, went,  
The lamb was absolutely sure that it would go.

It followed Mary closely to her school one day.  
That was, alas, against the school board's strictest rule.  
It made the children giggle, chuckle, laugh, and play  
To see an itsy-bitsy lamb like that in school.